rightsizing of manpower. As a part of restructuring, 80 additional posts of Chief Commissioners of Income Tax and 296 that of Commissioners of Income Tax have been created. There has also been reduction of 2716 posts.

MODVAT to DTA manufacturers in NE States

3701. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed MODVAT facilities to DTA manufacturers on goods produced in the North East which are having excise concessions;

(b) whether it is a fact that goods manufactured in the North East are eligible for exports and consequently for getting export benefits including excise duty refund and duty drawback at par with other States;

(c) if not, what are the reasons for discrimination against the North East; and

(d) whether Government would take corrective steps to make them at par with industries of other States to save the industries of North East from complete disaster?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not apply in view of reply to parts (a) and (b) above.

VRS in Andhra Bank

3702. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees in each cadre in Andhra Bank and State Bank of Hyderabad who opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) and number of employees relieved in each Bank under the Scheme;